

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of making a drywall joint, comprising steps of:

(a) positioning a flexible butt block that has a recessed surface on an interior side of a joint that is to be formed between a first drywall sheet and a second drywall sheet, wherein said butt block has an angled first portion and an angled second portion that meet at a central axis;

(b) ~~securing at least one of the first and second drywall sheets to the butt block so that the secured sheets are made to conform in shape to the recessed surface by, thereby forming a secondary recess on an exterior of the drywall sheet in the area at which the joint is to be made,~~ securing first portions of the respective sheets to the butt block, and then securing second portions of the sheets, which are closer to the area at which the joint is to be made than the first portions, to the butt block, thereby gradually pulling the sheets against the recessed surface to form a secondary recess on an exterior of the drywall sheet in the area at which the joint is to be made; and

(c) applying joint compound within the secondary recess.

2. (Original) A method of making a drywall joint according to claim 1, wherein step (b) is further performed by securing both the first and second sheets to the recessed surface, whereby the secondary recess is formed on an exterior of both of the drywall sheets in the area at which the joint is to be made.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) A method of making a drywall joint according to claim 1, wherein step (c) is performed so as to complete a joint that is substantially planar on an exterior surface thereof.

6. (Currently amended) A butt block for forming a drywall joint, comprising:

a first surface for engaging a first sheet of drywall;

a second surface for engaging a second sheet of drywall;

a center axis located in a central area of said butt block;~~and~~

angled, flexible, recess defining means for defining a recessed area between said first and second surfaces comprising a third surface closer to said central axis than said first and second surfaces, a fourth surface closer to said central axis than said first and second surfaces, said recess defining means being constructed and arranged to be drawn into contact with butt edge areas of the first and second sheets of drywall when fully secured to said sheets of drywall, whereby the butt edge areas will be caused to form a concave secondary recess on an exterior surface of the drywall joint; and

wherein said secondary recess is formed by securing said first surface and said second surface to said first and second sheets of drywall and then securing said third and fourth surfaces to said first and second sheets of drywall.

7. (Original) A butt block according to claim 6, wherein said butt block is fabricated from a material that may be penetrated by a drywall screw and that will provide sufficient anchoring for the drywall screw for the drywall screw to be able to pull the butt edge area of a sheet of drywall against the recessed area.

8. (Original) A butt block according to claim 7, wherein said butt block is fabricated from a material comprising fiberglass.

9. (Original) A butt block according to claim 6, wherein said butt block further comprises first and second outboard flange members, and wherein said first and second surfaces are defined, respectively, on said first and second outboard flange members.

10. (Currently amended) A drywall joint, comprising:

a first sheet of drywall having a first butt edge;

a second sheet of drywall having a second butt edge, said first and second sheets of drywall being positioned so that said first butt edge is adjacent to said second butt edge at a butt interface;

recess forming means engaging said first and second sheets for pulling said first and second butt edges inwardly so as to define a secondary recess in exterior surfaces of the first and second sheets in the area of the butt interface; and

a sealant applied in said secondary recess;

wherein said recess forming means comprises a flexible butt block comprising a first surface for engaging the first sheet of drywall; a second surface for engaging the second sheet of drywall; a central axis located in a central area of said butt block; an angled third surface closer to said central axis than said first and second surfaces; an angled fourth surface closer to said central axis than said first and second surfaces and a recess defining means defining a recessed area between said first and second surfaces, said recess defining means being constructed and arranged to be drawn into contact with butt edge areas of the first and second sheets of drywall when fully secured to said sheets of drywall, whereby the butt edge areas will be caused to form a concave secondary recess on an exterior surface of the drywall joint; and

wherein said secondary recess is formed by securing said first surface and said second surface to said first and second sheets of drywall and then securing said third and fourth surfaces to said first and second sheets of drywall.

11. (Original) A drywall joint according to claim 10, wherein said sealant comprises a solidified joint compound.

12. (Original) A drywall joint according to claim 10, wherein said sealant is applied so that an outer surface of said sealant is positioned substantially within a common plane with exterior surfaces of said first and second sheets of drywall that are not affected by said recess forming means.

13. (Canceled)